PHARMACISTS' BULLETIN

NOVA SCOTIA SENIORS' PHARMACARE PROGRAM
PHARMACARE
NOVA SCOTIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

December 2005 Vol. #05-13

DECEMBER BULLETIN

NOVA SCOTIA DIABETES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Nova Scotia Department of Health has established a Diabetes Assistance Program (NSDAP) which will provide funding for diabetic medications and supplies for residents who meet specific eligibility requirements. The aim of this program is to assist Nova Scotians who are not currently insured for medications and supplies used in the management of diabetes. The effective date of the program will be January 1, 2006.

For information on eligibility requirements or to obtain a copy of the registration form, please refer to the Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program (NSDAP) information booklet or call 429-6565 or 1-800-305-5026 for copies.

All patients who are enrolled in the program will be required to pay a part of the cost of prescriptions for medications or supplies that are covered under the program. There is also an annual family deductible which begins on January 1st of each year.

The NSDAP pays for most prescribed medications and some supplies used to manage diabetes. For Exception Status Drugs, the patient's physician will need to obtain special approval from Pharmacare. The NSDAP **does not** cover blood glucose monitors, insulin pumps or pump supplies.

Patients will be required to submit their original prescription receipts to the NSDAP for reimbursement. Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs will send reimbursement cheques to the family contact only.

Nova Scotia Diabetes Assistance Program
Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs
P.O. Box 500
Halifax, NS
B3J 2SI

EZETIMIBE
A REVIEW OF THE CRITERIA FOR COVERAGE

The criteria for Ezetimibe (Ezetrol®) for the treatment of hypercholesterolemia as monotherapy has been modified as shown in the criteria below:

- for the treatment of hypercholesterolemia, as adjunctive therapy with statins, in patients who have not reached treatment goals on maximum tolerated statin therapy alone
- for the treatment of hypercholesterolemia as monotherapy, in patients who are intolerant to statins and, when appropriate, fibrates

CHANGE TO EXCEPTION CRITERIA FOR TIOTROPIUM BROMIDE

The criteria for Tiotropium Bromide (Spiriva®) has been modified to reflect a reduction in the maximum daily dose requirement of ipratropium from 16 puffs daily to 12 puffs daily:

- for the treatment of moderate to severe COPD if a patient continues to be symptomatic after an adequate trial (2-4 months) of ipratropium at a dose of 12 puffs daily

INCLUDED WITH THIS BULLETIN:

- **New Products**, *effective January 1, 2006*
- **Interchangeable Products List** *effective December 15, 2005*
- **Pharmacare Programs 2006 Payment Schedule**

NEW PRODUCTS

The following products are "New Listings to the Nova Scotia Formulary" ***effective January 1, 2006***. The benefit status of each product within the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs is indicated.

DIN	PRODUCT	MFR	BENEFIT STATUS
02254506	Aldurazyme 0.058mg/mL Inj	GEZ	not insured
02267217	Asacol 800 (800mg) Tab	PGA	SF
02265540	Crestor 5mg Tab	AZE	not insured
02260638	Ebixa 10mg Tab	VLH	not insured
02269341	Kivexa Tab	GSK	not insured
02264560	Myfortic 180mg Tab	NVR	not insured
02264579	Myfortic 360mg Tab	NVR	not insured

INTERCHANGEABLE PRODUCTS ADDED TO NOVA SCOTIA FORMULARY

Effective December 15, 2005

EXISTING CATEGORY:

Note: For those products with benefit status under the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs, the existing MAC will apply.

	DIN	Product	MFR	Benefit Status
AZITHROMYCIN 250mg Tab	02255340	Co Azithromycin	COB	E
ZOPICLONE 7.5mg Tab	02267926	RAN-Zopiclone	RBX	SFC

NEW CATEGORY:

Note: Until a MAC price is established, AAC will be paid for those products with benefit status under the Nova Scotia Pharmacare Programs. These categories will appear in the next publication of the MAC List.

	DIN	Product	MFR	Benefit Status
AZITHROMYCIN 600mg Tab	02256088	Co Azithromycin	COB	E
	02231143	Zithromax	PFI	E

NEW NURSE PRACTITIONERS

The following nurse practitioners have been added to this group of prescribers.

Keith Glyde Cochersell	(License #727244)
Sharon Johanns	(License #71176)
Darla MacPherson	(License #728028)
Cheryl Smith	(License #721194)
Connie Venedam-Marchand	(License #724485)

Please retain for your reference. See the Nova Scotia Formulary for Pharmacare benefits which can be insured if prescribed by nurse practitioners.

NEW PRESCRIBING OPTOMETRISTS

The following optometrists have been added to the list of optometrists authorized to prescribe medications related to eye care:

Dr. Tim Maillet	(License #50196)
Dr. Rhetland MacDonald	(License #50198)

Please retain for your reference.